

OPINION

THE CHRONICLE

ERNEST H. PITT
 Publisher Emeritus
 1974-2015

617 N. LIBERTY STREET
 336-722-8624
 WWW.WSCHRONICLE.COM

DONNA ROGERS Managing Editor
 WALI D. PITT Digital Manager
 PAULETTE L. MOORE Office Manager

Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Legislators target voter fraud again

Here they come again. The election reformers in the General Assembly are getting ready to make another charge. Given the scant evidence they're provided so far, they're tilting at windmills.

But that apparently won't stop the efforts that are too many people — including some federal judges — a clear attempt to disenfranchise Democrats rather than a move to protect the sanctity of the vote.

State Senate leader Phil Berger said that election laws will be examined again in the upcoming session, which opens [this week]. Berger says he sees a "potential for fraud."

But when former Gov. Pat McCrory narrowly lost his re-election bid, his supporters filed wild claims of fraud all over the state. And every one of them was found bogus by state and local boards of elections with Republican majorities that were appointed by McCrory himself.

We're happy to see measures that target real voter fraud. Hint to Berger, et al: Make absentee voting more secure.

The length of early voting periods, the location of polling places and even voter ID aren't measures needed to prevent fraud.

If there's substantial evidence to disprove that point, then please bring it forward. But so far, those fraud charges have proved — well, fraudulent. It's really time to put up or shut up, don't you think?

The Fayetteville Observer

Before Obamacare? Not a good place

The Republican Congress is trying to push ahead to repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. Democrats are trying to stall their efforts. They know how it was for Americans to be without health care before Obamacare. The problem is, Republicans don't have anything to replace it with.

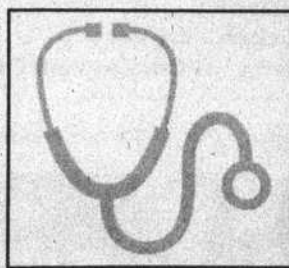
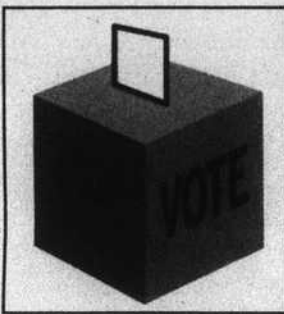
President Obama said in the beginning that the program is open for improvement. He even said during his farewell address on Tuesday that he would support another plan if it were a good one and helped people. Republicans should be trying to fix the program instead of repealing it.

The GOP supposedly had plans to replace Obamacare and they passed the plans, but President Obama vetoed them. Where are those plans now when at least one surely would be signed by a President Trump?

Why don't the Republicans have ideas to help Americans? Because they are too busy trying to hurt Americans and help themselves.

We hope we won't have to go back to the times before Obamacare. Even hospitals have been petitioning Republicans to replace Obamacare and not leave us stranded.

It's time to move forward, not backward. But that could be said about so much the Republicans are doing now.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Foster care, adoptions are in state of crisis

To the Editor:

Foster care and adoption are in a state of limbo, where they don't know growing at an alarming rate with a shortage of permanent, safe and loving homes for adoptable children.

About five years ago, we had just over 8,000 children in foster care in our state. Today, there are about 10,500 children in foster care, an increase of more than 25 percent in the last five years. That is a trend we would very much like to reverse.

For a child in foster care, it's a state of limbo, where they don't know what their future holds. They don't know whether they're going to remain with that foster family, move to another foster home, return to their biological family or whatever situation they came from, or whether they are going to find an adoptive family.

The biggest challenges we have with adoption are public awareness and increased resources to find the right family for the child. Every child that we place for adoption has a set of unique needs.

Time is an eternity to a child. We don't want any child to spend one day longer than they absolutely need to in foster care. Our goal is to help each child achieve permanency with a safe and loving family that will be theirs forever. We want to shorten that period of time as much as possible.

It's important to prioritize the long-term implications of a child not knowing who their family is going to be. It impacts how they see the world and how they see themselves. It impacts their sense of identity and belonging in ways that have profound implications long-term for them.

Brian Maness
 President and CEO
 Children's Home Society of
 North Carolina
 Greensboro

Rev. Robert E. Leak III
 President, New South
 Community Coalition
 President, Easton/Belview
 Neighborhood Association

We must work to instill hope to stop the violence in area

To the Editor:

The New South Community Coalition is deeply troubled and challenged by the crimes and acts of violence that continue to occur in our local city neighborhoods. One of the latest incidents is the murder of a 19-year-old African-American male on 12.24.16 by an unknown assailant in the Easton neighborhood area. Such continued acts of violence and crime are invariably coming from a place of fear and hopelessness, where these young men no longer appear to value life or fear death. Leaving us to ask: "Where is their hope?" And, the answer: "In our communities and our places of worship."

From our communities, we need more men to mentor these fatherless young men to teach them how to find their paths through life. We need more women to teach our young women how to achieve their full potentials as human beings. From our places of worship, we need our pastors to teach about the importance of being my brother's keeper and my sister's keeper.

Finally, we must reach out to this millennial generation and teach them about the principles of nonviolence. We must ask them to put down their weapons of destruction and walk in peace and love, showing them the way to true courage.

Most importantly, we must work to truly heal these youth through the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: "Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon, which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it. It is a sword that heals."

Animal Control: Thanks for help with dogs, cats that need homes

To the Editor:

We would like to take a moment to thank our community for all of your support in 2016.

First, a special thanks to Project Pearl who sponsored 81 cats and 24 dogs for a total of \$6,431 in sponsorships throughout 2016! These sponsorships pay a portion of the adoption fee in order to help animals who may otherwise be overlooked (like older dogs or cats) have a better chance at being adopted. Their medical foster program gave second chances to 68 animals who otherwise would not have qualified for our adoption program. If you are interested in making a donation to assist with sponsorships or medical fosters, you can contact Project Pearl at projectpearl@triad.rr.com.

In 2016, 1,251 animals were adopted and 328 were transferred to our Community Care Partner programs, who agree to follow adoption requirements such as spaying and neutering the animals in their care. The Community Care and Almost Home programs provide additional adoption, rescue & foster care resources for the Forsyth County Animal Shelter. Currently over 40 animal rescue, welfare, veterinarian and professional organizations participate in the Community Care and Almost Home Programs.

We'd like to recognize AARF, Forsyth Humane Society, Schnauzer Rescue of the Carolinas, and Siamese Cat Rescue as well as numerous other CCP organizations who take the time to transfer animals from our care into their facilities or foster homes.

Last, but most definitely not least, we really appreciate our volunteers. They have put in approximately 8,000 hours this year helping the animals in our adoption program.

Tonya B. Ward
 Senior Office Assistant
 Forsyth County Animal Control

We Welcome Your Feedback

Submit letters and guest columns to letters@wschronicle.com before 5 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication date.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and include your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep letters to 350 words or less.

If you are writing a guest column, please include a photo of yourself, your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep guest columns to 550 words or less. Letters and columns can also be mailed or dropped off at W-S Chronicle, 617 N. Liberty St., W-S, NC, 27101; or sent via our website, www.wschronicle.com.

We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for clarity or brevity and determine when and whether material will be used.

We welcome your comments at our website.

Also, go to our Facebook page to comment. We are at facebook.com/WSChronicle.

Send us a tweet on Twitter.

We are at twitter.com/WS_Chronicle.

